

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 00-03-27**

Date Published: March 23, 2000  
For Work Week Commencing: March 27, 2000  
Business Meeting: March 27, 2000, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. D99.12.287, D99.12.284, KD99.12.286 – JS Telephone, Montana Wireless and Pathnet Interconnection Agreements – To act on applications for approval of interconnection agreements (3/27/00)
2. D99.8.176 – Montana Power Company – MPC gas case – Follow up discussion/action on the MPC gas stipulation (3/28/00)
3. D2000.1.1 – Marion Orr Construction, DC Orr – Complaint against Flathead One Call Center – Discussion/Action – Follow up to DC's Response (3/28/00)
4. D2000.1.2 – Shelby Gas Association – SGA Petition for Declaratory ruling – Discussion and direction on further proceedings, if any, or direction on ruling (3/28/00)
5. D99.8.187 – Havre Pipeline – Farm Tap Increase Filing –

Discussion/Action (3/28/00)

6. D2000.2.23 – Front Range Pipeline – Rate Increase Application – Discussion/Action (3/28/00)
7. D2000.1.13 – Energy Northwest Inc. – Proposed tariff revision for miscellaneous charges – Discuss and act (3/28/00)
8. D2000.1.11- USWC and Citizens Telecommunications – Sale of Exchanges – Approval of Protective Order (3/28/00)
9. D99.8.205 – USWC – Detariff Operator Services – To bring USWC Motion before the Commission (3/28/00)
10. N2000.3.32 – CenturyTel – Promotions – Direction on request (3/28/00)
11. CALLS proposal before FCC – Discussion and direction on whether PSC should file comments before the FCC (3/28/00)
12. D97.7.90 – Montana Power Company – Court decision on standards of conduct, Butte-Silver Bow – Discuss options on whether to appeal or stipulate to an amended judgment to correspond with the court's order, with remand to PSC and modification of standards (3/28/00)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS- Docket N2000.3.34 (Scott)

On March 8, 2000, U S WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 00-7 a promotional offering to Montana customers. In this filing U S West customers subscribing too ISDN single line service with a minimum one year contract will receive one month of free service. The promotional period for this offering is to run from April 3, 2000 through June 3, 2000.

2. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D97.11.219 (Eric)

On March 20, 2000, MPC filed its 2nd semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by MPC in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent, MPC is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an undercollection of 19.24 percent or \$792,779. For this past November through January the weather in Montana has been approximately 16 percent warmer than normal on a degree day basis. This caused natural gas consumption to decline 19 percent from normal levels projected for this period. MPC is returning \$1,000,000 received as servicer of the trust to customers. Since MPC will receive this fee annually, it will remain as a credit in future filings. Also in this filing, MPC reflected 80 percent of the proceeds from the sale of three gas properties. Those sales produced a credit of \$161,504. Since the sales are a one-time adjustment the credit will only be included in rates for the period from April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. For a residential customer using 10 Dkt per month the change in rates from these filings will be an increase of \$6.72 per year. Staff recommends that the increase in the FTA charges be approved effective April 1, 2000.

3. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D97.7.90 (Eric)

On January 26, 2000, MPC requested an Accounting Order to accrue and Defer the Costs of Customer Choice. MPC estimates that costs associated with Customer Choice will be approximately \$1.5 million through the end of the transition period (7/1/2002). The Customer Choice Costs relate to both Electric and Natural Gas service. An Order has been drafted which grants the Accounting Order.

4. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS DOCKET NO. N2000.3.33 (Eric)

On March 8, 2000, U S WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 00-06 for approval of its proposed "Additional Line Promotion" which is to run from March 27, 2000 through May 5, 2000. During the promotional period residential customers who order an additional flat-rated line will receive a waiver of

50 percent of the nonrecurring charge associated with installation. The offer is limited to two additional lines.

5. U S WEST/JATO Communications - Docket D99.10.245 (Robin)

On January 31, 2000 the Commission issued Order No. 6226 in this docket approving and rejecting part of the wireline interconnection agreement between JATO Communications and U S West. On March 6, 2000 JATO and USWC filed a First Amendment to Interconnection Agreement amending the rejected parts of the agreement consistent with Commission direction. Staff has reviewed the amendments and recommends approval.

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. Sprint Communication Company-Docket N2000.3.37 (Scott)

On March 16, 2000, Sprint filed tariff pages to introduce; Sprint 1000 Nights Option B, Sprint 1000 Night Option A, Sprint 1000 Weekends Option B, Grandfather Sprint 1000 Weekends Option A toll Free usage, Rename Sprint 1000 to Sprint 1000 Weekends Option A, and make miscellaneous text changes.

2. Qwest Communications Corporation, D2000.3.38 (Scott)

On March 16, 2000, a joint application was filed from Qwest Communication Corporation, LCI International Telcom Corp., USLD Communication, Inc., Phoenix Network, Inc. and TeleDistance, Inc for authority to assign assets to TeleDistance, Inc.

Also included in this filing is a request for approval of the transfer of the stock of TeleDistance Holding, Inc the parent of TeleDistance, Inc from Qwest Communication International Inc. to Touch America, Inc. and a waiver of the customer authorization rule. In order for Qwest to comply with the merger application of Qwest and U S WEST, the subsidiaries of Qwest must cease providing interLATA they currently offer in the U S WEST, Inc. region.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 00-04-03**

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

- N2000.3.37 – Sprint – Tariff filing of introductions and text changes
- D2000.3.38 – Qwest – Application for waiver of customer authorization rule
- D2000.3.39 – Regional Services – Request for waiver for individual meters
- D2000.3.40 – Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – Declaratory ruling re:  
regulation question concerning electrical suppliers/distributors